

ANOTHER GENESIS

BY MARK O. GAUTHIER, #346

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As a young boy I listened intently to my grandmother, LUMINA MARCEAU-LACOURSIERE, as she spoke of the old days and the travels of her family. I was also amazed at the detailed stories she told about a land far away, across a continent, in the northwestern part of Alberta, Canada. Such names as FALHER, DONNELLY, and McLENNAN became etched in my memory without ever having visited these places. Her descriptions of certain events still fly around in my mind today whether they have been exaggerated by time or not. There were tales about unbroken trails from Grouard to Donnelly through the Wilderness; the first night standing in a violent rainstorm holding up the center pole of a tent to keep her four young children dry; a young child who accidentally grabbed a hot iron and burned its hand to the bone; my grandfather arriving in Donnelly only to find the boundaries of his land destroyed by a prairie fire; the one-door, one window log cabin that housed her family; the harsh land and ruined crops that finally forced their return to New England.

All these events had been preceded by other family and historical events that shaped their lives and partly determined their future. At the very least they shared with you about the call of FR. JEAN BAPTISTE GIROUX and the response of my ancestors.

On January 8, 1881, JOSEPH WILBROD LACOURSIERE, son of HYACINTHE LACOURSIERE and MARGUERITE BROUSSEAR, married ELIZABETH BEAUCHEVNE, daughter of NERE BEAUCHEVNE and HERMINE BEAUCHEVNE. This marriage took place at Suncook, New Hampshire and their first two sons (twins) were born at Allenstown on January 14, 1882 under the name "Lacourse". The reason for this was that Wilbrod Lacoursiere had become known as "SONHOMME LACOURSE" and "OLD MAN LACOURSE" two names that my grandmother disliked very much.

The births of WILLIAM FREDERIC and WILBROD GEORGE were followed by that of my grandfather, EDUARD JOSEPH LACOURSIERE, at Manchester, New Hampshire on August 30, 1883, and finally by that of ARTHUR JOSEPH at St. Sophie, County Megantic on July 28, 1885.

Between 1881 and 1904, Wilbrod and Elizabeth Lacoursiere traveled and worked in Suncook, Allenstown, and Manchester, New Hampshire during the winter months, and returned to the Arthabaska and Megantic areas to farm during the summers.

When Elizabeth Beauchesne-Lacoursiere died in 1904, Wilbrod returned to his native Arthabaska and remarried. His second marriage, to MARIE ANNE ARSENTIA FOREST, took place at Princeville, Arthabaska in 1908. He and his new wife moved to Lewiston, Maine where they had two children, Irene and William. It was during his stay in Lewiston that Wilbrod first heard the call of Fr. Giroux to travel west. I will return to Fr. Giroux later in this article.

Wilbrod Lacoursiere travelled to northwestern Alberta some time in early 1913 and wrote to his two sons, Edouard and Arthur, about joining him in Donnelly. He purchased 160 acres of land in township 77, range 21, west of the fifth meridian, with OLIVA GAUTHIER to his north and C. MARTINEAU to his west. Both his sons accepted this challenge and travelled to join him in the early months of 1914. Arthur contracted pneumonia and returned to New Hampshire in the late spring and married ROSANNA SOULET at Sohierworth, New Hampshire in June. They moved to Shrewsbury, Massachusetts where that line of the family still lives today. Edouard also returned to New Hampshire in the summer of 1914, but for the purpose of working in the mills and making preparations for his family to move to Alberta.

Edouard and LUMINA LACOURSIERE had been married at Franklin, New Hampshire on October 10, 1904 and had four children (GEORGE, IRENE, EDNA, and CLARENCE) by the time they left in 1914. They met the new Mrs. Wilbrod Lacoursiere and her two children at Montreal. The train took them from Montreal to Arthabaska Landing and they continued from there to Grouard by boat. The final trek was by wagon to Donnelly where Edouard had purchased 160 acres of land south of his father and north of SYLVA GIROUX.

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Edouard and his family remained in Gonnely for about six years during which time two more daughters were born: LUCILLE ANNE on March 3, 1916, and CLAIRE BEATRICE on December 17, 1918. Edouard worked on the building of bridges in the Peace River area with his father Wilbrod as foreman, and also supplemented his income doing carpentry work for the religious in the missions.

The family did not fare well because of failed crops two or three years in a row, and Edouard decided in 1920 to return to New England to begin again. The family returned to Franklin, New Hampshire, for a year and a half before he purchased a farm in Sanbornton, New Hampshire, where the family remained for many years thereafter. Three more daughters were born after the return to New Hampshire: JERNE d'ARC in 1921, JULIETTE (AMA) in 1924 and ELLEN EMMA in 1925.

The reason I entitled this article "ANOTHER GENESIS" is because the settlement in northwestern Alberta was very much a mixture of religious and social influences that echoed the call from GOD to the ancient Jews. In the Book of Genesis it reads:

And God said to Abraham: 'Arise! Leave this your land, your relatives, and the house of your father for the land that I will show you'

Fr. Jean Baptiste Giroux would use these very words in the many sermons he would give to entice people to follow him on his exciting and dangerous trek. Fr. Giroux was from St. Sebastien, County of St. Hyacinthe, P.Q. and travelled throughout Quebec and New England in his attempt to gather a following. Wilbrod Lacoursiere heard his call in Lewiston, Maine and followed. Many others would do the same, but only some would remain. Perhaps some of those 'missing persons', those 'gaps' in your genealogical tree can be found in the treasuries of Alberta.

Fr. Giroux knew people well. He understood that those Canadians who had been willing and able to accept the challenge of moving to New England might very well be the best people to invite on the great trek west. The accounts of OVILLA SABOURIN on the settlement of northern Alberta paint a picture of Fr. Giroux that is both exciting and clear. Fr. Giroux would leave each Friday evening on a recruiting expedition to the New England cities of Boston, Lowell, Fall River (Mass.), and Lewiston (Maine). It will be of special purpose for those of you who had ancestors living in those cities to read carefully the family biographies contained in the book "BY THE PEAVINE...IN THE SMOKY...OF THE PEACE" (ISBN 0-920564-01-1 Copyright, Canada, 1980, printed by Stuart Brandie Printing Services Ltd.)

Editors note: we suspect that there may be an element of confusion in the similarity of the names 'Athabasca' (an eastern location) and 'Athabasca' (the name of the Alberta River and townsite).

Other cities and towns mentioned as places of departure from the United States are: Woonsocket, Pawtucket, and Oakland, Rhode Island; Lynwood, North Adams, and Springfield, Massachusetts; Manchester and Nashua, New Hampshire; Butte, Montana; Detroit, Michigan; Newport, Virginia; and others.

This writer has become so enthralled by this early departure for Alberta that I have begun the long and tedious task of checking all the genealogical data contained in this book, especially regarding the families from New England. When enough family data was available in the family biographies, I have continued the line another step or two; for example: "BY THE PEAVINE...IN THE SMOKY...OF THE PEACE" gives us the information that a PIERRE AUBIN, born at St. Basien, P.Q. was married to OLIVINE LAFLAMME in 1884. It also tells us that they came to Alberta via St. Basien and Fall River, Mass. In fact, Pierre Aubin, son of BENOIT AUBIN and ANGELE LEMELIN, was married to Olivine Laflamme, daughter of FRANCOIS LAFLAMME and CELINA BLAIS, at St. Basien on July 22, 1884. Benoit and Angele Aubin had been married at St. Servais on July 17, 1855 and FRANCOIS and CELINA LAFLAMME had been married at St. Henri on February 10, 1867.

There was also also an ODILE AUBIN, daughter of Pierre Aubin and Olivine Laflamme, born April 24, 1906 at St. Basien, who married ARTHUR AUBIN, son of OMER AUBIN and MENELIE ROY. Arthur Aubin was born at Lynwood Mass. on June 19, 1906. Arthur and Odile left for Alberta in 1913. Such information placed together gives us these siblings that

went to Alberta: FRANK, JOSEPH, ISIDORE, JOSEPH OLIVA, and OGILE AUBIN. Also both Pierre Aubin (husband of Olive Laflemme) and JOSEPH JEAN AUBIN (husband of WILHEMINE GUENARD) were grandsons of Francois Aubin and JUDITH AUDET of St. Servais, P.Q.

There was also a EUGENE AUBIN who moved to Falher, Alberta, who was the son of JEAN AUBIN and WILHEMINE GUENARD-GUENARD. He was born at St. Damien, Bellechase on June 15, 1900 and left for Manchester, New Hampshire in 1916. He remained there for four years, leaving for Saskatchewan in 1920 then moved to Falher in 1920 to visit his brother, Joseph Aubin.

He took up homesteading in 1922 and married CELINE COMEAU on October 17, 1922. Joseph Aubin, brother of Eugene, was called 'Carlouts' and was married to MARIE GOUPIL, daughter of JOSEPH GOUPIL and MARIE ADELE AUDET, on August 13, 1906 at St. Damien.

My hope is that such work will eventually be of some use to those Alberta families who have been interested enough to write biographies of their families. Some of you readers may also want to add to this work if your families are connected with those who were among the great "genesis" in northwestern Alberta. Following is a list of those early Alberta families that might assist you in identification of links in Alberta:

Albert, Albinati, Alexandre, Allain, Ailder, Rogers, Arcand, Arnold, Rubin, Audet, Ruger, Aussaint, Avery, and Ayotts.

Babineau, Barton, Bastien, Beauchamp, Beauchemin, Beaudet, Beaudoin, Beaulac, Beaulieu, Beaudre, Beland, Belanger (d'Auteuil), Benoit, Bernard, Bienvignac, Birch, Biron, Bisailon, Bissonette, Bizier, Blair, Blancet, Boast, Brouin, Boens, Boissonneault, Boivin, Bonnacour, Boots, Bosak, Bouchard, Boulanger, Roulet, Bourgeois, Bourque, Bourquin, Brasse, Brault, Brewart, Brennan, Biren, Brisson, Broche, Brodeur, Brule, Brulotte, Brinin, Bruneau, Bryerson, Bugeaud, Burke and Byers.

Cadieux, Cailloux, Cain, Callaway, Campbell, Caron, Cardinal, Caseault, Ccreau, Chabot, Chalifour, Champagne, Champoux, Charland, Charbonneau, Chartier, Chauvette, Chevigny, Chevrette, Cison, Ciria, Cliche, Cloutier, Collin, Collison, Confolty, Conklin, Constantin, Cook, Cooper, Corsier, Cotdy, Cote, Cuillard, Couture, Coward, Cronin, Crooks, Cyr, Cyrane.

Daigneault, Dana, Dancause, Dandurand, Danze, Davis, Desseula, Dentinger, Deschasbre, Deschenes, Desilets, Desjardins, Desarais, Desnoyers, Despins, Desrosiers, Devost, Dewindt, Diasdale, Dolan, Doucet, Ducharme, Dufour, Dumas, Dupuis, Dwyer.

Elvidge, Engels, Erickson, Estrade, Etherington, Ethier.

Faucher, Faust, Fillion, Finley, Fiola, Fleury, Forcier, Fargues, Fortier, Fortin, Fournier, Fredette, and Fronteau.

Gagne, Gagnon, Gamache, Garand, Garant, Gariopy, Gasse, Gauthier, Genest, Servais, Gibeau, Sibelleau, Sibella, Giroux, Glaude (Gladue?), Sobout, Sour, Gravel, Greniers, Grondin, Guay, Giggisborg, and Guindon.

Hachey, Hassel, Hasselin, Harris, Hebert, Hews, Hogan, Holt, Houde, Houle, Howie, Hudson, Hughes, Huesault, Huot, and Hurtabise.

Jacob, Jaseault, Janelle, Jenkins, Jetts, Johnson, Joly, Jordan, Joubert, and Juneau.

Labbe, Labella, Labreque, Labrie, Lacoursiers, Lacroix, Laferrriere, Lafrance, Laglace, Laliberte, Lasarche, Lasbert, Laontagne, Lacoureux, Lanctot, Langelier, Langlois, Lanthier, LaPalme, Laplante, Lapointe, Laorty,

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Lattereur,, Lauzon, Lavoie, Law, Leavitt, LeBlanc, Leclerc, Leduc, Legault, Lemay, Lemire, Lessard, Levesseur, Leveille, Lewis, Longtin, Lorrain, Lucas, Lisseur, and Lynch.

Madeau, Meary, Nelson, Nilsson, and Norsand.

Odette, Olivier, Ouellet, and Ouellette

Pallier, Palser, Paquette, Parent, Parentsau, Paternotte, Pal, Pellaier, Perkins, Ferras, Perrin, Ferrault, Ferrier, Perry, Pastell, Peticlerc, Petrin, Phillion, Pilon, Pinard, Pinco, Pivysyski, Plourde, Pomerleau, Porter, Powell, Foulin, Foullet, Pressoir, and Proulx.

Quevillon

Raisville, Rancourt, Regnier, Reillard, Requier, Restall, Ray, Richer, Ringuette, Rivard, Roberge, Robert, Roche, Rochon, Rouleau, Roulers, and Roy.

Sabourin, Saulniers, Selby, Servant, Simoneau, Sirols, Smith, Soucy, Stewart, St. Andre, St. Jean, St. Martin, St. Onge, St. Pierre, Surtees, and Swift.

Taillefer, Tanquay, Tardif, Tessier, Therriault, Thibeault, Thorne, Tonnelier, Trebbley, Trenholo, Trotter, Trudeau, and Turcotte.

Univoisse

Vallee, Vandel, Verkljan, Veysy, Verina, Viens, Villeneuve, Wiclette, Vowden, Voyer, Vos.

Wade, Waggoner, Walton, Waters, Watt, Weaver, White, and Woloshyn.

* * *

In July and August 1973, I travelled to the Peace River area of Alberta to visit the places that my grandmother spoke of and to serve as a priest in the Parish of Peace River. Sr. Irene Lacoursiers, daughter of Wolbrod Lacoursiere (my great grandfather) and Marie Arsenia Forest, was stationed there and was of great assistance to me in my search for the old homestead and places of interest. Visiting Falher, Connelly, and McLennan, she pointed out the land that my grandfather and great-grandfather farmed, and the place where the log cabin had once stood.

I had the great privilege of meeting some of the early settlers who were still alive at Falher and McLennan. It was an experience I will never forget, for even today, with all the modern conveniences, it still is a harsh land, farmed by people who seek the simpler things in life, like survival and family solidarity.

When I read "BY THE PEAVINNE...IN THE SMOKY...OF THE PEACE" in 1982, I was brought back through 70 years, saw photos of my great-grandfather, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and realized more than ever before the significance that Alberta had played in my personal genealogy. I am grateful that the photo of that log cabin where my mother was born has survived the years to bring back the images of my grandmother delivering both her 'Alberta' children alone in the cold of winter.

We find ourselves captives of the historical events which surround us, but we are forever masters of the choices to be made within those events. This knowledge has helped us to chose the more important things.

<p>I Thomas Rivard Jeanne Chevrreau Tourouvre, France</p>	<p>V Luc-Antoine Rivard Lavigne Francois Rivard-D. Genevieve Chene-L. Genevieve Brisson Michel Brisson Marguerite Perrot ? January 1746, Batiscan</p>	<p>VIII Hyacinthe Lacoursiere-F. Hyacinthe Rivard-L. Marguerite Bertrand Marguerite Brosseau-Brassau Gabriel Brosseau Marie Marguerite Girboud 24 Sept. 1850, St. Pierre</p>
<p>II Pierre Rivard Thomas Rivard Jeanne Chevrreau Jeanne Mullard-Millard Robert Mullard Francoise Louche c. 1615, Tourouvre</p>	<p>VI Hyacinthe Rivard 1 Aug. 1706, St. Pierre Luc-Antoine Rivard-Lavigne Genevieve Brisson Josephite Melay-Poudrier Francois Poudrier-L. Louise Perrault 1 Aug. 1784, St. Pierre Jas Secours, Champlain.</p>	<p>IX missing from original text</p>
<p>III Nicolas Rivard Pierre Rivard Jeanne Mullard-M. Catherine St. Per Etienne St. Per Madeleine Coutreau c. 1657, Tourouvre</p>	<p>VII Hyacinthe Rivard-Lacoursiere Hyacinthe Rivard Josephite Lasey-F. Marguerite Bertrand Jean Baptiste Bertrand Genevieve Lefebvre 16 Oct. 1810 Ste Anne de la Perade, Champlain</p>	<p>X Edouard Joseph Lacoursiere Joseph Wilbrod Lacoursiere Elizabeth Beauchesne Lumina Celestine Marceau Louis Marceau Marie Chabot 10 October 1904 Franklin, Nn.</p>
<p>IV Francois Rivard de la Coursiere Nicolas Rivard Catherine St. Per Genevieve Chene-Lagrave Raymond Chene-Lagrave Rose Maillot 1 April 1717, Batiscan</p>		<p>XI Peter Andre Gauthier Joseph Ovide Gauthier Melina Fredette Lucille Anne Lacoursiere Edouard Joseph Lacoursiere Lumina Marceau 16 Oct. 1939, Franklin, Nk</p>
		<p>XII Mark Ovide Gauthier</p>

For information about "The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society" or to purchase a reprint of the Doty-Dotens Genealogy pub. 1897 contact: Mrs. Clark J. Fritspatrick III, 9213 Furrow Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 U.S.A.

For information on these single surname newsletters: "Bell Beginnings", "Wright Family Workbook", "Atwood Ancestors", "Woodson Watcher", "Peck-Peck-Peck Pioneers" and "Chasbers Helping Chasbers" contact Claudette Maarz, P.O. Box 37101, Bloomington, MN 55431 U.S.A.

For information on the "Percy-Piercy Family History Society" write: E.C. Percy, High Trees, Broom Way, Otlands Park, Weybridge, Surrey, England.

For information regarding the indexed Parish Registers of St. Andrews, West, Cornwall Twp., Storrant, Ont. (book form) write: Leeds and Grenville Branch, O.G.S., Box 536, Brockville, Ont. K6V 5V7.

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Thomas Mack Heather

QUERIES

Queries are accepted free of charge from members and non-members. (Non-members are charged \$4.25 per copy of "Relatively Speaking" in which their queries appear.) Please forward your queries, typewritten if possible, otherwise printed PLAINLY to: The Editor, Relatively Speaking, P.O. Box 12015, Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

**ROSE
DARBY** Searching for info. on Herbert Vincent ROSE, son of Ernest ROSE. Herbert married Essie Fanny DARBY about 1880. He is believed to have lived in Kent, England. Their five children were: Ernest Vincent, Percy Edward, Min (Wood), Edith (Chilvers) and Ronald. Most of the children moved to Alta.

**McPHEE
BROWN** Searching for info. on Charles McPHEE, b. 23 Feb 1876 in Blantyre, Lanark, Scotland and d. 1910 in Teber, Alta. He married Margaret BROWN on 10 Dec 1894 in Scotland. They had eight children: Alexander Charles, Mary Reid (Rose), Janet Robinson (Hodgson), Joseph (died in infancy), Agnes (died in infancy), Maud Pringle (Hays), Kathleen (O'Dell) and Charles Duff (d. 3 Mar 1985 in Teber, Alta.).

BERRETH Searching for info. on the family of George BERRETH, b. 10 Mar 1858 in South Russia. He married Sophia BERRETH b. 17 Feb 1868 in Odessa, South Russia. They emigrated to the Dakotas and in 1889 moved to Piepot, Sask. Their children were: Henry, Reinhold, Annie (Peterson), Pauline (Grantham), Essie (Kruger), Albert A., Ruth "Hilda" (Ellis), Lena (Klein), John, Martha (Kopotoski, Elderkin).

Mr. and Mrs. Brian KLEIN, 105 Cooney Rd. S.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1Y7

**CAMERON
LAUDER
CROSS** Searching for descendants of Laughlin CAMERON and Ellen LAUDER who came to Canada about 1820 from Inverness, Scotland. He came to Oro, Ont. first, later moving to Veapre. They were married in 1842 at Guthrie or Oro. Their children were: Maggie, Angus, Donald, James, John, Annie, Alex, William, Walter and Jenny (not necessarily in that order). I know very few descendants of these children, except Donald. The children of Donald and Eliza Catherine CAMERON (nee CROSS) were Jenny, Walter, Nellie, Thomas, Lizzie, John, Andrew, Charles, Will, Donald F.B., Pearl and Fanny.

A CAMERON family reunion, for all descendants, will be held July 5 and 6, 1986 at Sedgewick, Alta.

Hetty CAMERON, R.R. #1, Loughheed, AB T0B 2V0

BELL Searching for birth and death dates for Joseph BELL. He was possibly born in England about 1886. He worked in Calgary, Alta. in 1907-14 as a taxster.

Brian BELL, #305 - 1139 Barclay St., Vancouver, BC V6E 1G8

CCGS REFERENCE ONLY

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